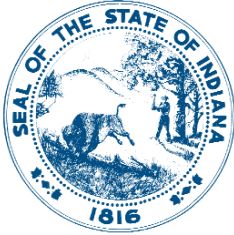


Dennie Oxley

Indiana State Representative, District 73



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Spring, 2002

Dear Friends:

The 2002 short legislative session has ended. While we passed several important pieces of legislation, I am disappointed we did not reach agreement on a major tax restructuring plan or address the state budget deficit.

I voted for a plan in the House that would have offset expected property tax increases, created a better climate for economic growth and addressed the current state budget deficit intensified by the national recession. I believe this proposal, while not perfect, answered some of the questions about fairness and equity that have long plagued our tax systems.

I thought we should confront these issues now rather than later if we are to avoid cutting important state services, including funding for public education. Unfortunately, Republicans in the Indiana House and Senate did not share this opinion, and we were unable to establish a compromise in the closing days of the session. It concerns me that the Republicans are unwilling to do anything to address the short-term financial stability of our state. I remain hopeful that we can reach some consensus on these issues in the coming months before deeper, more painful cuts become necessary.

Despite my concerns about the budget deficit and taxes, I am pleased we did enact several proposals to help a variety of Hoosiers. We passed landmark public safety and anti-terrorism legislation, enacted a number of provisions that protect children and approved several health care initiatives. I have detailed a number of those new laws inside this newsletter.

Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about state government. You can e-mail me at H73@in.gov or call toll free at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

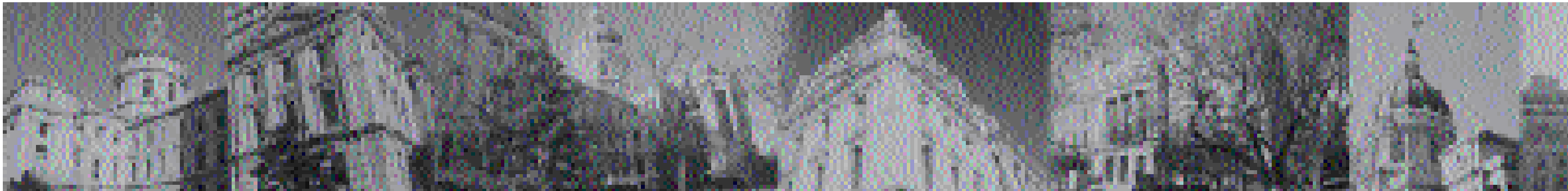


Inside

•Anti-terrorism laws

•Protecting children

•Health care initiatives



Legislature stands together on public safety laws

Lawmakers act against terrorism, other threats

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, officials across the country took a serious look at the ability of local emergency systems to respond to a similar threat. The members of the Indiana General Assembly passed several laws during this session to help meet the challenge of our new defense requirements.

House Bill 1001 establishes a Counter-Terrorism and Safety Council (C-TASC) that will serve as the coordinating state agency for emergency management response to terrorist acts. Chaired by the lieutenant governor, the council will develop anti-terrorism strategy, including placing an affiliate of the council in each county, coordinating efforts with the U.S. Office of Homeland Security, and implementing counterterrorism training in the state law enforcement academy.

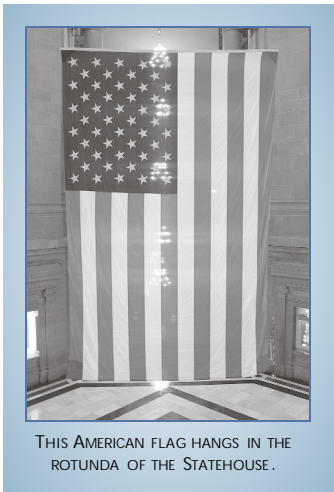
Part of a \$1.25 BMV service charge will be used to develop an integrated wireless public safety system to help connect agencies across the state in case of an emergency. A portion of the service charge will also

be used to alleviate the state police crime laboratory backlog.

The law includes penalties for several terrorist and public safety issues, including:

- money laundering to support terrorist activities
- restrictions on the issuance of commercial driver's licenses and hazardous materials endorsements
- penalties concerning regulated explosives or devices, the possession of a weapon of mass destruction or the intent to cause a person to believe that a substance is a weapon of mass destruction
- disorderly conduct on airport premises
- interruption or impairment of work at a food processing facility
- the expulsion of a student who brings a destructive device on school property.

While no one foresaw the devastation of the September attacks, we are taking every step possible to maintain Indiana's safety to the fullest extent.



THIS AMERICAN FLAG HANGS IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE STATEHOUSE.

House blocked on budget reform bill



REP. OXLEY ADDRESSES THE HOUSE.

Legislators reached the March 14 deadline for adjournment without an agreement on resolving the deficit in the biennial state budget and restructuring Indiana's tax code. House Bill 1004, which passed out of the House, addressed the immediate fiscal crisis facing our state. With the slowing of the national economy, Indiana will not be able to provide the levels of support contained in the current biennial state budget. That means the state will be forced to make some difficult decisions, including reducing funding for home health care services, higher education and our local schools. The version of HB 1004 that passed out of the House attempted to reduce the deficit by increasing taxes on cigarettes and gaming, making additional cuts and transferring funds to maintain schools and higher education.

House Bill 1004 also sought to overhaul the state's tax code by making it more fair and equitable, while creating an environment that fostered continued economic growth. It included an increase in the state sales tax and the corporate net income tax, but benefitted homeowners and businesses in many ways, most importantly by protecting home, farm and business owners from the large property tax increases expected as a result of the upcoming reassessment.

New crime laws provide relief to victims

Each year the Legislature passes a number of bills that create new offenses or toughen penalties against existing crimes. During the 2002 session, lawmakers passed a measure designed to provide some relief for family and friends of people who have been murdered.

House Bill 1012 requires the judge in certain murder cases to allow relatives to make victim impact statements in open court after the sentence is passed on an offender. Giving family and friends a chance to convey their feelings about a horrible crime to the person who committed it can have positive psychological effects for the mourners. In addition, impact statements help reinforce the severity of the crime to the offender and give that person a chance to show remorse for their actions.

Another new law will penalize fuel retailers who artificially inflate gas prices in times of crisis. House Bill 1015, which came into being after citizens complained that some dealers were charging exorbitant prices for gas in the days after September 11, will allow the Indiana attorney general to investigate complaints on price gouging and seek relief that would include fines and restitution to victims.

House Bill 1005 is designed to prevent people from throwing such burning material as lit cigarettes from moving vehicles. Anyone found guilty of the crime could receive a fine of up to \$1,000.

Additionally, new laws increase the penalties for such crimes as battery by body waste and leaving the scene of a boating accident.

Advocates working for farmers' rights

New law requires third party testing on seed samples

During the 2002 session legislators acted to assist farmers burdened by corporate lawsuits of patent infringement by contamination of crops. Many farming issues were raised in a study committee last summer, prompting lawmakers to file a series of initiatives considered a farmer's bill of rights.

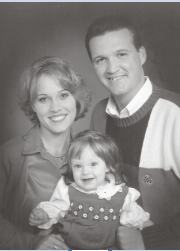
While not everything in this package became law, several important measures did succeed. In particular, third party testing will be required on seed samples taken from a farmer's

land. This third party, appointed by the state seed commissioner, will be present to verify that both parties receive samples, help ensure valid testing and stop incidents of trespassing.

In the months ahead, advocates for farmers' rights will be working with interested parties on several important issues, such as protecting farms from inadvertent pollen drift or contaminated seed, and providing repayment of court and attorney fees for farmers found innocent in seed lawsuits.

Free publications from Representative Oxley

The following publications are available free-of-charge by calling my Statehouse office at 1-800-382-9842.



REP. OXLEY WITH HIS WIFE, JAYME, AND DAUGHTER, DEMI.

Hoosier Fun and Facts — This information and activity book teaches elementary students about their state through text, puzzles and other activities.

Relax... — This booklet for senior citizens discusses issues from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education — A publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies — This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each.

Discount Drug Cards — This information sheet details several discount cards available to seniors for their prescription medications.

Also Available:

- Get out and Go Map
- The Indiana Travel Guide
- The Festival Guide
- Golf & Travel Guide
- Indiana Department of Transportation Road Map

Telephone Privacy List still available

If you haven't yet registered for the Telephone Privacy List, you still have time. Although the list is already in effect, it is updated every three months. If you register now, your name will be included when the updated list takes effect July 1, 2002.

The Telephone Privacy List is free to Indiana residents. By adding your name, most telemarketers will be prevented by law from calling you. You only need to register once to be included.

How to register

You may register by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-834-9969. You may also register online at the Attorney General's Website. Go to www.in.gov/attorneygeneral and scroll down the page until you come to the ringing phone icon. This will take you to the Telephone Privacy List page. Click on the link that says "Register Here," and fill out the registration form.

Certain exceptions

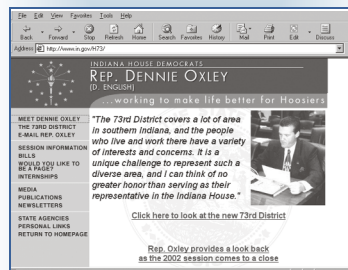
Registering with the Telephone Privacy List will not eliminate all telemarketing calls. Four types of solicitors are exempt from the law: Charitable organizations using volunteers or employees to make calls; newspapers using employees to make calls; insurance agents; and realtors.

Violations

If you receive a telemarketing call from someone other than the exceptions listed above after the list becomes effective, you may down-

load a complaint form from the Attorney General's Website or call 1-812-355-5915. If a company is in violation, the Attorney General's Office may issue a court order to prevent further calls and may seek a fine of up to \$25,000.

Stay informed about this and other issues online with Representative Oxley



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